United Nations A/CN.10/PV.308

General Assembly

Official Records

Disarmament Commission

308th meeting

Friday, 16 April 2010, 11 a.m.

New York

Chairman: Mr. Zinsou ..... (Benin)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): We shall now begin the final meeting of the 2010 substantive session with agenda item 7, which concerns the adoption of reports of subsidiary bodies on the various agenda items and the consideration and adoption of the draft report of the Commission, as contained in documents A/CN.10/2010/CRP.2, CRP.3 and CRP.4. Those documents have been circulated to delegations.

In accordance with the programme of work, we will first consider and adopt the draft report of the Commission. Thereafter, we will hear concluding statements by delegations.

To start the process of considering and adopting the reports of subsidiary bodies on individual agenda items, I should like to call on the Chairs of the two Working Groups to introduce their respective reports.

I now give the floor to the Mr. Paolo Cuculi, representative of Italy and Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4, namely, "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", to introduce the report of the Working Group, as contained in document A/CN.10/2010/CRP.3.

Mr. Cuculi (Italy), Chair of Working Group I: The draft report of Working Group I (A/CN.10/2010/CRP.3) is quite simple and succinct. In essence, it states that the Group held discussions that were extensive and that included the participation of all interested delegations. Of course, those discussions were not exhaustive and did not cover all possible issues that could have been raised. They focused mainly on topics that were either proposed by the Chair or raised by delegations and, in any case, were deemed relevant to the mandate of the Working Group, which is, next year, to achieve consensus on recommendations on the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The report also refers to proposals by delegations and to the working paper submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group I, on item 4, as contained in document A/CN.10/2010/CRP.3.

It was so decided.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): I shall now give the floor to Mr. Johann Paschalis, representative of South Africa and Chair of Working Group II, to introduce the Group's report on agenda item 5, entitled "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade", as contained in document A/CN.10/2010/CRP.4.

Mr. Paschalis (South Africa), Chair of Working Group II: As agreed in 2009, the Working Group this year continued its work on the basis of the Chairman's non-paper. Once the first reading was completed, the Working Group decided to devote two meetings each to the main sections of the non-paper. In order to

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

10-32257 (E)

Please recycle

facilitate the process, the Chair prepared three non-papers, consisting of a compilation of delegations' proposals on each section, to be read along with the Chair's non-paper.

Working within that framework, the Working Group had a robust exchange of ideas on a broad range of substantive issues. The many proposals that flowed from those discussions will provide a rich trove of ideas from which the Working Group will be able to distil consensus elements for a meaningful draft declaration during its final session, in 2011. The Group decided to continue its consideration of the Chair's non-paper alongside the proposals made by delegations at its next session.

In conclusion, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to Ms. Christa Giles, Secretary of the Working Group, to the staff of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch and to Mr. Ioan Tudor of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, adviser to the Working Group, for their indispensable work to ensure the success of the this session. Of course, the same appreciation also goes to the interpreters for their tireless efforts.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt the report of Working Group II, on agenda item 5, as contained in document A/CN.10/2010/CRP.4.

It was so decided.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): Now that the Commission has adopted the reports of its subsidiary bodies, I would like to thank the Chairs of the two Working Groups for their dedication. The Commission is deeply indebted to them for their effective leadership in guiding the deliberations of the Working Groups.

The draft report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session is contained in document A/CN.10/2010/CRP.2. I have the pleasure of giving the floor to Ms. Lachezara S. Stoeva of Bulgaria, Rapporteur of the Commission, to introduce the draft report.

Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Rapporteur of the Disarmament Commission: It is my pleasure to introduce to the Disarmament Commission the draft report of the Commission, as contained in document A/CN.10/2010/CRP.2. The draft report contains four chapters: The draft report consists of four chapters: "Introduction", "Organization and work of the 2010 substantive session", "Documentation" and "Conclusions and recommendations".

Turning to the text of the draft report, I wish to draw attention to the following correction. In chapter II, "Organization and work of the 2010 substantive session", the final portion of paragraph 11 should read "and held nine meetings from 31 March to 14 April".

As is customary, the final draft report is a factual description of the Commission's work and proceedings during the session. The substantive part comprises the reports of the two Working Groups, which the Commission has just adopted and which form part of the present draft report.

The Commission discussed two substantive items at this session. As usual, no parallel meetings were held. We in the Bureau thus had a chance to closely follow developments and to witness both Chairs and delegations try, skilfully and step by step, to craft consensus on complex issues on the Commission's agenda. The two reports of the Working Groups reflect the second year of discussions.

The discussion on agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", was a comprehensive and productive one. The deliberative mandate of the Disarmament Commission allows for practical and action-oriented consideration, as well as broad philosophical and conceptual approaches to the issue, without being under the pressure of negotiations. And under the very able guidance of the Chairman, the Commission made good use of that mandate. Despite the bad timing of this year's session — right before the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) — all contributions and comments, whether oral or in writing, constitute a rich background providing a solid basis for the Group's deliberations during next year's session. I would particularly like to emphasize the valiant efforts of the Chairman of the Working Group, to thank him for his dedication and for the background research he presented to us, and to wish him continued success in his future work.

On agenda item 5, "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade", the Group continued work on the second revision of the non-paper which the Chairman circulated last year. This year, he prepared three

non-papers consisting of: a compilation of delegations' proposals, which were read in conjunction with the second draft. Building on positive elements containing numerous comments by delegations on his initial text, the Chairman took the Group down the path of slow but, it is hoped, steady progress. Although consensus was not achieved on the elements or on the modalities of how to report to the General Assembly during its 2010 session, the degree of convergence of different positions and approaches and the flexibility shown by delegations in general leave us with the hope that agreement will be achieved next year. Allow me to emphasize the excellent manner in which the Chairman guided the Group in the not-easy task of drafting the elements, to thank him for all his efforts and to wish him success in his future endeavours.

I also wish to take this opportunity to say that it has been a great pleasure to be the Rapporteur of the Commission for this year and, in particular, to work under the able leadership of our Chairman, Ambassador Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou. It was an enriching experience to participate in the work of the Bureau together with the Vice-Chairmen and the two Chairmen of the Working Groups.

Finally, allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the Secretariat for their tireless efforts and kind assistance. May I also thank Ms. Christa Giles, Secretary of the Commission, the secretaries and advisers of the Working Groups and the members of the Commission staff who assisted us in our deliberations, as well as the interpreters, for their dedication and great work.

With those remarks, I recommend that the Commission adopt the draft report as contained in document A/CN.10/2010/CRP.2.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): We shall now consider the draft report of the Commission chapter by chapter. Are there any comments on the text of the draft report as a whole?

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): I have a question about paragraph 15, which says that the Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports of the Working Groups, "reproduced below". Are the reports going to be reproduced in that section? If not, that passage should read "appended" or words to that effect.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): The reports of the Working Groups will appear in paragraphs 17 and 18, in the way that they always do. I call on the Secretary of the Commission for a clarification on this point.

Ms. Giles (Secretary of the Commission): The reports contained in documents A/CN.10/2010/CRP.3 and CRP.4, as the Commission has adopted them today, will be inserted in the text as paragraphs 17 and 18, and will thus form part of the body of the text.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): As there are no further comments, we shall now proceed to consider the report chapter by chapter.

If there are no comments on chapter I, entitled "Introduction", paragraph 1, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt it.

Paragraph 1 was adopted.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): We shall now move to chapter II, entitled "Organization and work of the 2010 substantive session", paragraphs 2 to 12. If there are no comments on chapter II, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt it.

Paragraphs 2 to 12 were adopted.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): We turn next to chapter III, entitled "Documentation", paragraphs 13 and 14. There being no comments, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt chapter III, paragraphs 13 and 14.

Paragraphs 13 and 14 were adopted.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): We turn next to chapter IV, entitled "Conclusions and recommendations", paragraphs 15 to 18. There being no comments on chapter IV, I shall take it that the Commission wishes to adopt it.

Paragraphs 15 to 18 were adopted.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the Commission, having adopted all paragraphs of the draft report, to adopt the draft report of the Commission as a whole, as contained in document A/CN.10/2010/CRP.2, as orally revised?

The draft report, as orally revised, was adopted.

Concluding statements

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): Now that the Commission has adopted its report, I should like to say a few words of a general nature.

After three weeks of intense deliberation, the time has now come for us to take stock of this session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. At the outset of our work, I expressed the hope that the worldwide recognition of the importance of issues relating to disarmament and non-proliferation and what is at stake would inspire us and lead inevitably to significant breakthroughs during this session.

Have we satisfied this legitimate expectation? I am not able to say so. I therefore leave it up to each delegation to assess its contribution and the degree of political will shown in the sincere efforts made during this second session of the current three-year cycle.

As Chairman, I must thank all those who made great efforts to seek consensus on the two substantive items considered during this session. Although it is true that we have moved closer to that objective, I must also recognize the clear fact that we have not succeeded in making this session stand out from the series of targets the Commission has missed over the past 11 years.

Very fortunately for humanity, the challenges of disarmament and non-proliferation, and their urgency, have been better served in other forums during this month of April 2010. Here, I welcome the conclusion in Prague on 8 April of the long-awaited agreement on the reduction of the arsenals of the two main nuclear Powers. The members of the Commission have constantly underscored their particular responsibility for showing leadership in promoting disarmament.

I welcome the review of the United States nuclear posture, which reaffirms the guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States that comply with their commitments under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as that country's commitment not to further enhance its arsenal and not to develop new nuclear weapons.

I welcome the success of the Nuclear Security Summit. I congratulate Member States that seized that opportunity to make a historic contribution to disarmament by announcing significant measures aimed at reducing the threats facing humanity.

With regard to the central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations in the field of disarmament in accordance with its Charter, these successes were far from spontaneous. I cannot fail to relate this progress in the field of disarmament to the work accomplished in recent years by the Disarmament Commission as the principal multilateral, deliberative organ of universal character. Even if this work has proved fruitless, the Commission has the merit of having provided a framework for evaluating the dangers facing humankind and of having heightened the sense of the urgent need to act to address them.

Moreover, we can now gauge the salience of the initiative to embark the United Nations on the path towards adopting a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade in order to take stock of the situation and forge a vision to guide the international community in this area. Although it has failed to finalize work on recommendations for the elements of such a draft declaration at this session, I hope that the Commission will nevertheless be able to do so next year at the last session of the triennial cycle, given all the risks that such a failure would entail for its credibility and for universal multilateralism in the field of disarmament.

For the time being, I would like to thank and pay tribute to the singular efforts made by the Chairmen of the two Working Groups in engaging the delegations of member States in constructive discussions on the substantive items with which the Commission is seized. I wish to convey to them my deepest appreciation for their laudable efforts in tenaciously fulfilling their mandate against all odds. The outcome of their work provides us with a solid basis for the continuation of our deliberations and augurs well for the third and final session of the Commission's current triennial cycle.

I recall for the record that the Commission will necessarily have to work simultaneously in the year 2011 to address the three subjects on its agenda, the last of which concerns practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. I hope that all member States will be able to correctly gauge the challenge that this issue represents and will demonstrate the needed flexibility to that end.

Having said that, I would like once again to thank the delegations of member States for their participation and contributions to the Commission's work in a spirit of collective effort at this session. I appeal to them to mobilize the additional political resolve necessary to ensuring the successful outcome of the cycle that we all wholeheartedly desire. I hope that they will be able to make the most of the discussions on disarmament

that will take place in the future, the most imminent of which is the upcoming Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which is to begin in two weeks, and the fourth Biennial Meeting of States to consider progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in June 2010.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Secretariat and all its relevant components, in particular the Office for Disarmament Affairs and above all the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs seated at my side, for the effective support that was provided for the smooth proceeding of the session.

The Commission will now hear concluding statements by delegations.

Mr. Simanjuntak (Indonesia): On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), I would like to thank you, Sir, and the Bureau for your able stewardship. The Movement also thanks Ambassador Duarte and his Secretariat team for the assistance provided to member States during this session. I would be remiss if I did not give special thanks to the Chairmen of the two Working Groups, our dear colleagues Mr. Paolo Cuculi and Mr. Johann Paschalis, who did an impressive job and brought the discussions to the current level. The discussions in the two Working Groups were very important and deserve note.

In Working Group I, on the nuclear issue, even though we could not conclude the substantive work during this session, NAM notes the fruitful discussion that took place there. We expect that next year's session will reflect more concrete progress on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all their aspects, which is necessary for strengthening international peace and security.

Regarding Working Group II, the Movement highlighted at the general debate the significance that it attaches to the fourth disarmament decade. Although Working Group II, dealing with the elements for a disarmament decade, did not manage to conclude its work during the current session, it had very productive substantive discussions on the full spectrum of disarmament issues. In order to reach the convergence of positions that is necessary for the Working Group to reach consensus recommendations on the elements for a disarmament decade, the NAM urges all delegations to display the necessary political will and flexibility during the 2011 session of the Disarmament Commission. The Movement hopes for a comprehensive, concise, forward-looking and principle-based outcome to the Working Group's efforts next year.

Finally, to those colleagues who will travel back to places outside of New York, we wish them a safe journey.

Mr. Morro (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

First of all, we would like to thank you, Sir, for all the efforts you have deployed as Chair of the United Nations Disarmament Commission at the 2010 substantive session, and for the leadership you have demonstrated throughout this process.

The European Union also wishes to convey its sincere gratitude to Mr. Paolo Cuculi, Chairman of Working Group I, and to Mr. Johann Paschalis, Chairman of Working Group II, for their dedication and flexible and efficient contributions to our work. Their knowledge and expertise in disarmament and non-proliferation affairs have been of great use to the work of both Working Groups. We also wish to express our gratitude to our Rapporteur, Ms. Lachezara Stoeva, for her work; to Ambassador Duarte and all members of the Secretariat for their support; and to the interpretation services for their excellent work.

We appreciate the constructive atmosphere that prevailed at this year's session. We have participated in an exchange of views on a broad range of topics on the international disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control agenda. In parallel with our session, we have also witnessed relevant events outside of New York, and sincerely hope that this favourable environment will prevail at the upcoming Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

At the same time, the States members of the European Union deplore the fact that no tangible results were achieved at this session of the Disarmament Commission. We sincerely hope that progress will be made in our deliberations in the coming months with a view to addressing the substantial challenges we will face, such as the aforementioned NPT Review Conference in May; the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to

Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in June; the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in July; the session of the First Committee of the General Assembly in October; and the ongoing discussions on the programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

We also hope to attain productive results in those forums that will have a positive effect on the work of the Disarmament Commission in 2011, when we shall also be addressing practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons before concluding our 2009-2011 triennial cycle.

To conclude, allow me once again to thank all members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for their excellent work.

Mr. Obisakin (Nigeria) (*spoke in French*): I am speaking on behalf of the Group of African States.

(spoke in English)

On behalf of the African Group, I wish to express our deep appreciation to you, Sir; the High Representative; the two Chairs of the Working Groups; the Bureau and the Secretariat for their efforts in guiding our Commission to this outcome. These three weeks of debate have been very instructive for all of us, especially with regard to the existing gaps between our various positions, specifically in Working Group I, led by our colleague Paolo Cuculi. It was our fervent hope that the consideration of elements of a disarmament decade in Working Group II, under the chairmanship of our colleague Johann Paschalis, would be concluded at this session. However, since it could not, we sincerely appeal that it be concluded at the next session so that other aspects of disarmament can be adequately dealt with. Once again, I want to thank everyone and wish them a safe journey home.

Since I still have the floor, I want to say, on behalf of Nigeria, that we sent a formal letter to the Secretariat with the list of participants in the delegation of Nigeria. It is a little bit painful that although I personally delivered it to the Secretariat, the list was not reflected in the appropriate document. I hereby wish to formally request that the list of members of the delegation of Nigeria be reflected. It was sent to them on 29 March, the very day we started. It should have been reflected in document A/CN.10/2010/INF.1. I appeal to the Secretariat. We know that although the teeth and the tongue are always together in the same chamber, once in a while they bite each other. It is not that they are not friends. The teeth will not pack up because they have bitten the tongue, and nobody is above making a mistake.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Nigeria for his kind words addressed to the Chair. We have taken note of his observation concerning the list of participants. A revised version of the document will be distributed, taking into account the full composition of the Nigerian delegation.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): I would like to echo the delegations that preceded us in expressing appreciation to you, Sir; the Chairs of the two Working Groups; the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), very ably headed by Ambassador Duarte; the Secretariat staff, the interpreters and all the wonderful ladies and gentlemen who have made our work so smooth and convenient.

Needless to say, we have had very enlightening discussions for the past three weeks and we look forward to a consensual outcome document next year. In this regard, given the fact that there is bound to be a time constraint, which I believe has already been pointed to, and that we are going to have a third item on the agenda as well, I would just like to suggest that perhaps it may be useful to have more intersessional consultations. This is not to suggest that we should actually convene formal meetings, but perhaps we should take advantage of electronic means of dissemination or websites. For example, I believe ODA has a good dissemination system. This would allow our delegations to have some advance idea of what we are going to be discussing.

In that regard, Mr. Chairman, I leave it to your discretion, as well as to that of the two Chairs of the Working Groups. Practically speaking, however, when we begin next year's three-week session, once one subtracts the time that is taken up by general statements and by the usual differences of opinion on what ought and ought not to be included, we may not be left with much time. In that regard, I think that if the consultation period is somehow shortened, that would really help us to reach some conclusions. We assure you of our fullest cooperation in making your task easier.

The Chairman (spoke in French): I take note of the proposal made by the representative of Pakistan. It

shall be taken up and discussed under agenda item 8, "Other business".

Mr. Youn Jong-kwon (Republic of Korea): I would like to join my colleagues and friends in expressing our thanks and sincere appreciation for your work and the work done by the Chairs of the two Working Groups, Mr. Paolo Cuculi and Mr. Johann Paschalis, whose efforts and dedication made this very difficult debate go much more smoothly and achieve some results. I would also like to express gratitude for you're the clear and succinct summary provided by our Rapporteur, Ms. Lachezara Stoeva. I would also like to thank the members of the Secretariat, notably Mr. Ioan Tudor, Ms. Christa Giles and Mr. Timur Alasaniya.

I believe all our work and our debates this year will lay a good foundation for our subsequent work at the 2011 session. As the representative of Pakistan has already pointed out, I think next year we will have the very difficult task of discussing three topics within a limited period of time. It is my delegation's hope that we will find a way to make the best use of our limited time during the intersessional period, whether through informal consultations or otherwise.

However, as a longer-term issue, I would like to point out that the Disarmament Commission has to work on a way to streamline its agenda-setting and decision-making process, because we previously faced similar problems in the intersessional periods between 2003, 2004 and 2005. There were some smaller topics we had discussed, about the decision-making process and agenda-setting within the Disarmament Commission.

Having said that, it is not really something on which we can come to a conclusion or find a very simple solution to at this point, but as a longer-term issue, I think that all delegations and the Commission itself should be reminded of the need to work on the working methods of the Commission.

Mr. Ermakov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): On behalf of the Russian delegation, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Chairman of the Commission, Jean-Francis Zinsou, for the professional way in which he has led the work of the Commission and for the excellent way in which he addressed the main issues that were discussed during our deliberations. I congratulate him on the successful conclusion of our work.

I would also like to express our appreciation to the Chairs of the two Working Groups, Paolo Cuculi and Johann Paschalis. The bulk of our work was, without a doubt, carried out in the Working Groups. The discussions that took place there covered the whole wide range of national views on ways to achieve disarmament. The work was very interesting, although it was not easy. I thank our Chairs for their professionalism, their in-depth knowledge of the problems and their personal involvement in the discussions.

I would also like to express the appreciation and thanks of the Russian delegation to Ambassador Sergio Duarte. The statement that he made (see A/CN.10/PV.303) covered the essence of all disarmament activities, and it is on the basis of the principles discussed in his statement that we can take further steps on this path.

In addition, I would like to note that this session, to a large extent, has been different from the Commission's work in previous years. One of the main differences is that, at the time of the session, a historic disarmament agreement was signed: the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. This is a legally binding agreement which takes us to a new level in the area of disarmament. The treaty is a good example of how two leading nuclear Powers were able to come to an agreement on very important and sensitive aspects for reducing strategic offensive weapons.

Another very important event was the holding, in Washington, D. C., of the Nuclear Security Summit. Furthermore, without a doubt, the work of our Commission was by way of a prologue to an event to take place here in New York in two weeks' time: the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Many of the discussions that took place at our session will spill over into the Review Conference, and to some extent, our session was a sort of training on how to find common positions and to overcome the very serious differences that still remain.

Yes, it is true that our work did not achieve any major results, and no documents of substance were agreed upon. But we should not be discouraged. The process of disarmament is a long-term and very

sensitive one. It requires time, persistence, will and the participation of all States without exception.

Therefore, in conclusion, I would like to wish everyone success and to express my hope that the next session, in 2011, will be even more interesting and intensive. The participation of all United Nations Member States will certainly be necessary for us to achieve the concrete results that are required at the next session.

I wish all who are not staying in New York a safe return to their homes. On behalf of the Russian delegation, I would once again like to express appreciation to all participants, to the Secretariat and to the interpreters, who contributed to ensuring productive work throughout the three weeks of our session.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank the representative of the Russian Federation for the kind words addressed to the Chair and for the highly informative and positive statement that he just made concerning the work of the Disarmament Commission. I note that that was the last speaker for this meeting. There are no further requests for the floor.

Other business

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): I now invite the Commission to discuss the proposal made by the representative of Pakistan that we hold informal meetings between the 2010 session, which is now coming to a close, and the 2011 session. Does any delegation wish to comment on that proposal?

Mr. Morro (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to express my gratitude for the proposal which the Chairman has reiterated. In my delegation's opinion and as all colleagues know quite well, the non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control agenda is quite full for the months of May, June and July. We would therefore prefer that a decision on the possible holding of meetings between the 2010 and 2011 sessions be taken by the First Committee in October, after a specific debate on the proposal in the context of the draft resolution concerning the Disarmament Commission that the Committee discusses each year.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): Let me just clarify a bit — not that anything has been lost in translation, but I think there has been a slight misunderstanding about the intent of the proposal.

What we have proposed is based on the practical consideration that when we actually begin a session, and given the fact that time is not infinite and there are a limited number of meetings, texts continually emerge. We can reasonably assume that, although the reports of the Working Groups may be procedural in nature, a lot of discussion has taken place. I do not want to tutor the Chairs on how to go about it, but the idea is that some papers can perhaps be disseminated in advance. We are not suggesting that we should have meetings and use up scarce conference servicing resources. That is not the idea.

Nowadays, one can disseminate information through emails. We do it all the time in the Non-Aligned Movement, outlining what is up for discussion. In that way, the consultations that delegations have to have with their capitals can be done in advance. That would save time. Obviously, it would require some coordination work. It would be up to those concerned to decide how to go about it. We are not trying to assign any responsibility in that regard. Going by the pattern of discussions this year and the fact that we are going to have an additional agenda item, perhaps some advance consultation would help.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): We have taken note of the clarifications that the representative of Pakistan has just made in connection with his proposal.

Mr. Liebowitz (United States of America): We would certainly, of course, not object to countries or groups of countries circulating papers in the interim period. Obviously, countries can consult with each other, as I am sure they do all the time in New York. However, we remain sceptical about any kind of more formal meetings. As various people have pointed out, the disarmament and non-proliferation calendar is already very heavily charged. We doubt that such meetings would be easy to arrange or particularly useful.

Finally, as I did not take the floor previously, let me express our appreciation to all members of the Bureau, the two Chairs of the Working Groups, the Secretariat staff and the interpreters.

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): I note that there is no consensus on the proposal that has been made to hold consultations between the two sessions.

As there are no other items to be considered at this session, I should like to thank all delegations that have contributed to our work and to express my gratitude for their constructive spirit at this session and for the support they have extended to me and the other members of the Bureau, who helped me to shoulder the responsibility of running the Commission smoothly. I am particularly grateful to them. Above all, I would like acknowledge delegations that will be returning home, especially those not based in New York. I would like to thank them in particular for the interest they have shown by coming to this session.

I should also like to thank His Excellency Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, for his interest in the work of the Commission and for his invaluable contribution. I would especially like to thank Mr. Timur Alasaniya, Secretary of the First Committee, who has followed our work at this session very discretely and who is at our table today. I also thank the Chairs of the Working Groups and the staff of the Secretariat, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the interpreters and the conference and documents staff.

Closure of the session

The Chairman (*spoke in French*): I declare closed the 2010 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.